STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 112 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Monday 15th June 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Heritage Dodda Gadiyara facelift process begins

- Conservation experts collect masonry material, lime mortar used to build Silver Jubilee Clock Tower
- Samples to be sent to Regional Conservation Laboratory in Mysuru and Pune Lab for tests

Mysuru, June 15 (RK&BCT)- The process to conserve and repair Dodda Gadiyara or Silver Jubilee Clock Tower built in 1927 near Rangacharlu Town Hall in city has begun with members of the District Heritage Expert Committee collecting samples of the construction materials used to build the iconic structure that is 75 feet in height.

The Committee members visited the heritage structure last Saturday and collected the masonry material, lime mortar, a few iron pieces that have been rusted and samples of the construction material that has been chipped off over the years. These samples will be sent to Regional Conservation Laboratory (RCL), branch of National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property for tests.

The RCL is located in Mysuru at Giriyabovipalya near the Mysuru Zoo and is well-equipped with adequate infrastructure and laboratories for material analysis and testing, developing sustainable conservation solutions. Some of the samples of the 93-year-old structure will be sent to a Laboratory in Pune too for analysis. Cracks have developed in the area where the bell is situated at the top portion. There is a 5.5 feet bell on top of the tower and it has stopped ringing since the last 30 years. The weight of the French-made bell is around 920 kg. The arch of the structure has cracks owing to rusting of the iron used in the construction process.

Conservation Committee

An exclusive Conservation of Heritage Clock Tower Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde is the Member-Secretary. The Committee has heritage experts and Structural Engineers including Member, Expert Committee for Development and Protection of Mysore Heritage Region and Convenor, INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Prof. N.S. Rangaraju, N.R. Ashok, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Sudhir G. Vombatkere and heritage expert Raghunath from Bengaluru.

This Committee and other officials in the MCC including Superintending Engineer Biligiri, Executive Engineer Nagaraju, Assistant Executive Engineer Nagaraju and Engineer Kavitha visited the heritage structure and collected the samples. Further action like the Detailed Project Report will be prepared once the RCL test report and the Pune Lab reports are out.

MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde along with heritage expert Prof. N.S. Rangaraju and others inspect the bell on top of the Silver Jubilee Clock Tower where cracks have developed.

MCC has to take the blame

Giving details about the heritage structure, city-based Horologist M.S. Chandrasekhara Iyer told *Star of Mysore* this morning that way back in 2005 when A.B. Ibrahim was the MCC Commissioner, a four-member committee was formed to restore the heritage monument that included Mysore Agenda Task Force (MATF) member M. Lakshman, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S.G. Vombatkere, former SJCE Principal Dr. Syed Shakeeb Ur Rehman and Chandrasekhara Iyer. "More than 25 Commissioners have come and gone since 2005 and sadly nothing was done to restore the structure," he said.

Chandrasekhara

(See HERITAGE on page 6)

Kuppanna Park to be developed as tourist hotspot

Horticulture Minister holds review meeting in city

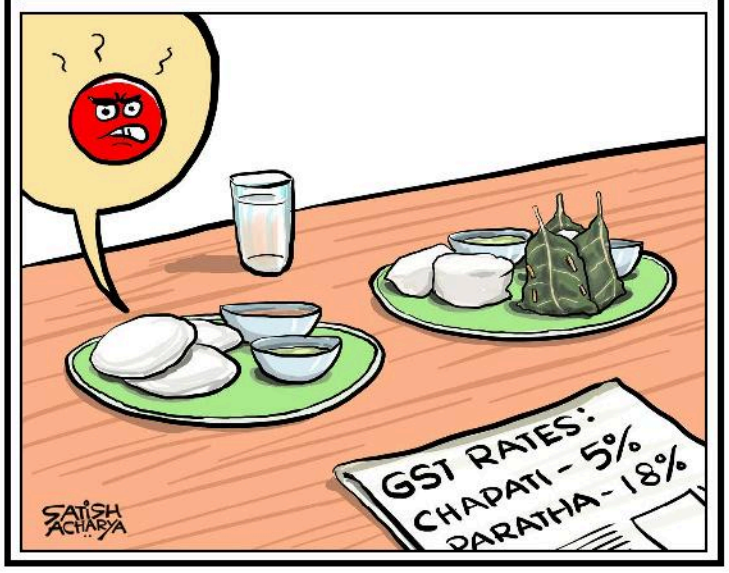
Mysuru, June 15 (RK&DM)- The Kuppanna Park in the heart of the city will be developed as a tourist hotspot throughout the year, said Minister for Horticulture, Sericulture and Municipal Administration K.C. Narayanagowda.

Responding to the suggestions of the local MLAs, he said that it is a good idea and that he would immediately take up the issue with the Government.

The Minister was presiding over a progress review meeting of Horticulture, Sericulture and Municipal Administration Departments at Chamundeshwari Auditorium in Regional Commissioner's Office here this morning.

(See PARK on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Eco-run: VVCE students modify

TATA Nano into low-cost electrical car

The team E-ight who built the car — Bharath Y. Kashyap, R.V. Sheshank, Vishnu Appaiah, Chidananda A. Kashyap, K. Guruprasad, R. Punith, Dadabash Soudagar and R. Pratheek — along with Gundappa Gowda, President, Vidyavardhaka Sangha, P. Vishwanath, Secretary, Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Dr. B. Sadashive Gowda, Principal, Dr. G.B. Krishnappa, Dean R&D, Dr. L.J. Sudev, Dean TA&P, Dr. G.V. Naveen Prakash, HoD and D.S. Rakshith Gowda, Assistant Professor.

Mysuru, June 15 (BCT)- Unlocking the potential of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in revolutionising mobility and transport is no longer a distant dream. While the EV technology is shaping the future of mobility in many parts of the world, India too is getting ready for the same.

Many automakers including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, MG Motor and Audi have announced plans to launch EVs in India over the next two years. At the same time, students from various Colleges are also taking baby steps towards developing the mature EV technology.

In Mysuru, students of Department of Mechanical Engineering, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), have developed a new electric car.

"In the present day, air pollution is a major peril on human health. Foremost part of the air pollution is due to vehicles which run on power generated by Internal Combustion (IC) engines, namely petrol and diesel engines. The Government of India has taken a bold step to curb air pollution caused by vehicles. The alternatives for internal combustion vehicles are EVs," say the students.

The Government-backed Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) has issued tenders for 20,000 EVs to be deployed across the country for Government use. With this, the Government aims an EV sales penetration of 30 percent or private cars, 70 percent for commercial cars, 40 percent for buses and 80 percent for two-and three-wheelers by 2030.

To support this venture of the Government, the team, calling themselves as a team of E-ight (E- Electric vehicle i-is g-good for ht-health) students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering have developed the car as part of their final year project — converted an IC engine car into an electrical car.

They bought a second-hand TATA Nano car from Tata motors for Rs.41,500 and totally modified it into an eco-friendly electric car with an additional cost of Rs. 96,658 including electric motor, batteries, controller, accessories and labour cost.

The team E-ight included Bharath Y. Kashyap and R.V. Sheshank (Team Leaders), Vishnu Appaiah, Chidananda A. Kashyap, K. Guruprasad, R. Punith, Dadabash Soudagar and R. Pratheek. They were guided by Dr. G.B. Krishnappa, Dean (Research and Development), L.J. Sudev, Professor and Dean (Training and Placement) and D.S. Rakshith Gowda, Assistant Professor.

According to the students, the car needs full charging time of 6 hours 36 minutes and can give a mileage of 40 kms (single person). They have calculated running cost per km: 1 rupee 15 paise when driven at a maximum speed of 45 to 50 kms. It will be 35 kms (four members) and the running cost per km will be 1 rupee 32 two paise at a maximum speed of 35 to 40 kms.

President of Vidyavardhaka Sangha Gundappa Gowda and Secretary P. Vishwanath, Principal Dr. B. Sadashive Gowda and HoD of Mechanical Engineering Dr. G.V. Naveen Prakash have congratulated the team.

Calling handloom weavers to avail financial aid

Mysuru, June 15 (DM)- The Department of Handlooms and Textiles has invited applications from handloom weavers who were pushed to a lot of hardship and distress due to COVID-19-induced lockdown, for seeking financial help (Rs.2,000) from the Government. The applicants must be residents of Karnataka and should be a Pehchan Card holder, issued by the Government of India to all weavers registered under the Fourth National Handloom Census.

The affected weavers can collect the prescribed application form from the Department Office located in CTI (Chamarajendra Technical Institute) Building on Sayyaji Rao Road and submit the same along with required documents before June 20. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2441353 or 2422322.

Ambari Convention Hall opens in Royal City

The newly built Ambari Convention Hall at Vishweshwaranagar was inaugurated yesterday by former MLAs S.A. Ramdas and S.R. Mahesh. MPs V. Sreenivasa Prasad and Pratap Simha, MLAs G.T. Devegowda, L. Nagendra, C.S. Niranjan Kumar, B. Harshavardhan, H.P. Manjunath and Anil Chikkamadu, former Minister Kote M. Shivanna, former MLA Chikkanna, ZP Member Madegowda, former Mayors Sandesh Swamy, Purushotham and B.L. Bhyrappa, Corporator Srinivas, District Co-operative Union President H.V. Rajeev, ACPs Poornachandra Tejaswi and Shivashankar and others were present. Ambari Convention Hall is owned by Ambari Chits Private Limited Managing Director 'Sweet' Mahesh and Anagha Hospital Director V. Mahadev, brothers of Shivakumar (Mahalakshmi Sweets.) Ambari is Mysuru's 2nd AC Convention Hall with seating arrangement for over 600 people and dining hall which can accommodate over 450 people at a time.

VOICE OF THE READER

Installation of automatic street light controllers: Some thoughts

Sir,

Many have suggested installation of automatic street light controllers in city. Yes, it is a good idea but will it work is the million dollar question?

I have worked in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for over 40 years and visited many places abroad. In Saudi and Kuwait, once a scheme is implemented there is an annual budget to MAINTAIN the facility.

This maintenance has two parts. The contractor who installs a facility has to maintain it for a minimum period of two years from date of handover or substantial completion. This includes explicit warranties and guarantees plus periodic maintenance and repair maintenance (this is built into the supply and installation costs).

Before the expiry of the above warranty maintenance, a contractor is selected to carry on the periodic and repair maintenance (this will include replacement of bulbs, fittings and lighting and switchgear; the price is built into the costing). The contractor is obligated to carry a pre-determined quantity of all spare-parts which is regularly audited by the respective authority.

Inspectors are given area and a duty cycle to daily survey his or her area and note any deficiency, defect and raise a work order instantly and the contractor is given 2 to 4 hours to attend to it. But if it is necessary to switch off the power-supply to carry out the repair, then it is delayed to the daytime hours (so the maximum timing is 24 hours) no excuse is given for non-availability of spare parts (that is why the inclusion of carrying a pre-determined quantity of spare part) which the contractor has to maintain and replenish as and when spares are consumed.

Finally before the monthly payment is made to the contractor all work open work orders are scrutinised and payment made after deducting penalties and withholding a minimum of 10 percent to a maximum of 25 percent of the monthly payment. The payment is on a daily basis (starting from the end of the 24 hour period) and even an hour delay is penalised as one day. (Exception is given only if the work had started long before the 24 hours ended and due to technical reason or a reason beyond the control of the contractor and with the written sanction of the authority).

That is why one sees clean streets, working lights, clean and well maintained buses and trains and other public utility. But in India there are lots of loopholes and avenues for vested interest and corrupt practices. Hence, the million dollar question?

— George Rego
on e-mail

Mysuru
14.6.2020

Obituary

Sannuvanda B. Subbamma

Mysuru, June 15- Sannuvanda B. Subbamma (Machamada), wife of late Bolaiah and a resident of Dattagalli 3rd Stage, passed away yesterday in city. She was 79.

She leaves behind three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage this morning, according to family sources.

Sudheendra Kumar

Sudheendra Kumar (62), proprietor of S.K. Geo Informatics and Secretary of Shalini Convent, passed away yesterday following brief illness.

A resident of Raghavendranagar, he leaves behind his wife Sharada, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill last evening, according to family sources.

Police Constables recruitment: Last date extended for applications

Mysuru, June 15 (RK&SD)- Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth has stated that, in view of Coronavirus pandemic, the last dates have been extended for submission of applications for recruitment of Police Constables.

In press release issued recently, he said that last date for submission of applications for recruitment of Civil Constables and CAR/DAR Constables has been extended to July 9, which had been June 22 as per the earlier announcement and application fee should be remitted before July 13.

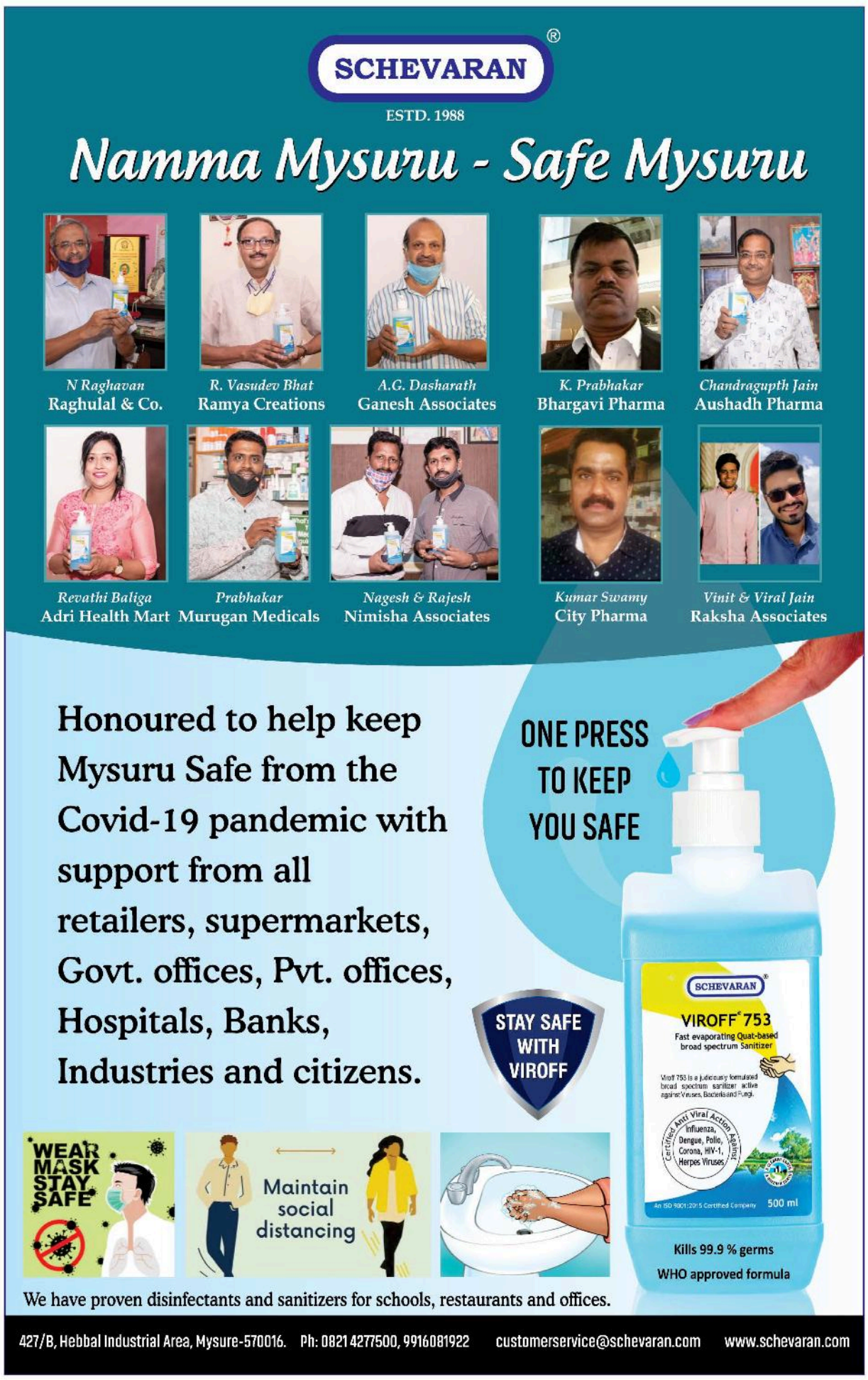
Similarly, for Civil Police Constable (men and women) and Armed Police Constable posts, last date for submission of applications has been extended to July 13, which had earlier mentioned as June 22 and application fee should be remitted before July 15.

For KSRP and bandsmen Constable posts, last date for submission of applications has been extended to July 6, which was earlier mentioned as June 15 and fees should be remitted before July 8.

The medical test will be conducted from June 15 to June 19, for those candidates who have been shortlisted in the temporary list and qualified after scrutiny of documents for recruitment of vacant Civil Police Constables and Armed Reserve Police Constables.

Messages have already been sent to shortlisted candidates through SMS and are requested to download call letters from Police Department's website (www.ksp.gov.in) and attend medical test according to schedule, he said.

SITE FOR SALE
Appollo Hospital Road
60ft Road Near
Arvinda Hospital MUDA
Property "50x80" West
Facing Site
91085-81054



Seven persons meet watery grave in Mandya district

Mandya, June 15 (Nagaiah & KS)- In three separate incidents, seven persons including five women met their watery grave in Mandya district yesterday.

In the first incident, a woman and her two daughters drowned at the lake in Beeranahalli village in Nagamangala taluk coming under Bogadi Gram Panchayat limits.

The deceased are Geetha (40), wife of Narasimhaiah and their daughters Savitha (19) and Sowmya (14), residents of Beeranahalli village.

The woman and her daughters had gone to the lake to wash clothes, when they reportedly slipped and drowned.

Villagers, who were passing by the lake at about 11.30 am, saw the clothes near the lake and empty water pots floating. When they did not find anyone nearby and on suspicion began to search the lake and found the three bodies. A case has been registered at Nagamangala Rural Police Station.

In another incident, two girls, who had gone to wash clothes at a lake in Yaladahalli village, adjacent to Cholasandra village, were drowned after they slipped and fell into the lake yesterday afternoon. The deceased are Rashmi (23), daughter of Gangadhar and Inchara (7), daughter of Niranjan Kumar, both residents of Cholasandra.

Rashmi, along with Inchara had gone to the lake to wash clothes at about 1 pm, when they accidentally slipped and drowned. The bodies were fished out and shifted to Adichunchanagiri Hospital mortuary in Bellur. A case has been registered at Bellur Police Station in this regard.

In the third incident, two persons, who had gone to bathe their cattle at Hemavathi canal at Huruli Ganganahalli village, Kasaba hobli in K.R. Pet taluk, were drowned in the canal last morning.

The deceased are Abhishek (15), son of late Swamygowda of Ganganahalli and Kumar (25), son of Javaregowda of Adihalli village. Abhishek was a 10th standard student at Sri Channakeshava High School at Koratagere and Kumar was his relative. Yesterday at about 10 am, the two went to the canal to wash their cattle when Abhishek slipped and fell into the canal. Kumar, who immediately jumped into the water to rescue Abhishek, was also drowned while the cattle swam back to the bund.

Taluk APMC President J. Chandrahas and Vice-President Manjamma, who visited the bereaved families assured them of getting suitable compensation under Raitha Sanjeevini scheme.

CATTLE THEFT

Two arrested after a year

Mysuru, June 15 (MK&KS)- Mysuru Rural Police have arrested two persons who were involved in stealing cattle and have seized a car, machete and knives from them.

On June 10, 2019 night, two bulls and three cows belonging to one Ramu were stolen from his house at Dadadahalli in the taluk and the robbers had slaughtered the cattle for meat in the bushes at Jnanabharathi Layout on the outskirts of the village. They had left behind the legs and skin of the cattle and a case was registered at Mysuru Rural Police Station.

Acting on a tip off, Circle Inspector K. Jeevan on June 13, 2020, arrested two persons identified as Nadeem and Syed Wasim near Hosahundi village in the outskirts of city besides seizing a Maruti Omni van (KA-01-N-989), a machete and knives that were kept in the van.

The theft of Ramu's cattle at Dadadahalli in the taluk came to light when the accused were subjected to interrogation. The accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

Sub-Inspector V.C. Vanaraju, Crime Detection Unit Asst. SI Jagadish, staff Satish Ravikumar, Ashok, Bhaskar, Nanjundaswamy, Satish, Thimmaiah and Raju, took part in the nabbing and seizing operation.

Man dies after falling from second floor of house

Mysuru, June 15 (SBD&KS)- A man, who was staying at a rented house in Kumbarakoppal, died after falling from the second floor of the house on Saturday. The deceased is Guruswamy (35), a supplier of construction materials and a native of Maleyuru village in Chamarajanagar district.

According to the Police, Guruswamy, who had taken a room on rent on the second floor, slipped and fell at about 7.30 pm on Saturday resulting in serious injuries to his head. Though he was rushed to a private hospital by his neighbours, Guruswamy succumbed to his injuries at about 2 am. Metagalli Police, who have registered a case of unnatural death, are investigating.

JD(S) MLA accuses MyMUL of issuing interview letters for recruitment despite High Court stay

S.R. Mahesh urges Government to waive off all taxes to be paid by Choultry owners

Mysuru, June 15 (RKB&DM)- Accusing MyMUL (Mysuru Co-operative Milk Producer Unions Limited) of issuing interview letters to several candidates despite a High Court stay order on the publication of final selection list, K.R.Nagar JD(S) MLA S.R. Mahesh maintained that MyMUL's act is a violation of the Court order.

Addressing a press meet at his office located off Ramavilas Road here this morning, Mahesh, who is also a former Minister, displayed a copy of the interview letter sent to a male candidate yesterday asking him to attend interview on June 21, in support of his allegation.

Questioning the intent of the Special Executive Body meeting called by MyMUL today purportedly to discuss a directive issued by the Co-operation Department in connection with MyMUL recruitment, the MLA wondered what the meeting would discuss when interview letters to several candidates have been despatched yesterday itself.

Accusing MyMUL of giving a complete go by to transparency in the recruitment process, he warned of severe protests if it went ahead with the recruitment, ignoring the Court order.

Kalyan Mantaps

Referring to the Government's directive asking Kalyan Mantap owners to return advance money to those who had booked marriage halls and subsequently cancelled the bookings due to COVID-19 lockdown, Mahesh, who owns the Sa. Ra. Convention Hall in Dattagalli, urged the Government to waive off all taxes to be paid by Choultry owners to various Government bodies.

Maintaining that Kalyan Mantap owners were facing severe losses and are staring at closure due to lockdown, he wanted the Government to come to their rescue by waiving off taxes at least for a year.

City JD(S) President K.T. Cheluvegowda, MyMUL Director A.T. Somashekar, party leaders Somu, Prakash Priyadarshan, Lokesh and others were present.

Elderly couple seriously injured as car rams into bike

ysuru, June 15 (SBD&KS)- An elderly couple were seriously injured when a car rammed into their bike at Jayanagar yesterday afternoon.

The injured persons, who have been admitted in an ICU at a private hospital in city, are 64-year-old Badrinath and his wife 60-year-old Shylaja, residents of Udayagiri 5th Cross. Their condition is said to be critical.

The couple were on their way to attend the memorial ceremony of a relative at Rama Mandira in Jayanagar on their Honda Activa scooter (KA-04-SA-7056) when a speeding Hyundai i10 car (KA-09-P-6535) rammed into the scooter near Sankethi Hostel at Jayanagar 10th Cross and 2nd Main Road Junction, resulting in the couple sustaining serious injuries.

Kuvempunagar Traffic Police, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar, besides registering a case.

Watchman assaulted in city

Mysuru, June 15 (RKB&KS)- Four persons are alleged to have brutally assaulted a watchman on Friday midnight in city.

The seriously injured watchman, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in city is Rangaswamy, who was working as a watchman for Praveen at D. Devaraj Urs Truck Terminal near Bandipalya here and was staying in a shed there.

According to the statement given by Rangaswamy to the Police, four persons, identified as Srinivasarao, Manjunathrao, Sachin and Mahesh, called Rangaswamy who was sleeping in the shed on Friday midnight and when he (Rangaswamy) came out, the four persons all of a sudden began to assault him with beer bottles and iron roads.

When Rangaswamy began to run from the spot, they chased him and assaulted him besides issuing life threats.

Vidyaranyapuram Inspector Manjunath said that a case has been registered and investigations were going on.

Bike-borne miscreants yank off 100 gm gold chain

Mysuru, June 15 (MK&KS)- Bike-borne miscreants snatched the 100 grams gold chain of a woman near the Railway Under-bridge close to Medar Block yesterday afternoon.

The woman, who lost her gold chain is Saritha Kavale, a resident of Yadavagiri. Saritha, who had been to her relative's house at Bannimantap, was on her way back home on her scooter, when two bike-borne miscreants, wearing helmet and mask, who were following her, yanked off her gold chain and sped away. V.V. Puram Police have registered a case.

J.P. Nadda heaps praises on BSY's leadership in handling COVID-19

BJP National President J.P. Nadda

Bengaluru, June 15 (UNI)- BJP National President J.P. Nadda was all praise for Karnataka's handling of COVID-19 with special mention to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa (BSY) yesterday during a virtual address. Nadda highlighted the achievements of the Narendra Modi Government 2.0 as he addressed thousands of BJP leaders and workers in Karnataka as part of his Jana Samvada virtual rally.

"Chief Minister Yediyurappa has been proactive during this fight against COVID-19 with 4Ts ; Testing, Tracing, Treating and Technology. With the use of technology, his Government has been able to monitor hospitals remotely, create a COVID awareness response team to keep citizens informed and fight fake news. His Government's initiative of 'Dasoha' has ensured poor migrant labourers were not left hungry," said Nadda.

He also appreciated the State Government's decision to amend Land Reforms Act to allow easier land purchase for industries and the amendment to APMC Act allowing free markets for farmers. Throughout his address, Nadda thanked the COVID warriors as well as BJP workers who have been involved in volunteering work to help those in need.

Accusing Congress of indulging in "petty politics" during COVID-19 crisis, Nadda asked it to take 'tuition' from his party on how to conduct as Opposition party during such situations. Hitting back at Rahul Gandhi for his comments that DNA of openness and tolerance that India was known for has "disappeared", Nadda asked, "are you forgetting, who is becoming intolerant, do you remember Emergency?"

"Don't worry about country's DNA, worry about Congress' changing DNA, if you keep this in mind it will be good for your health and country's political health," he added.

Nadda said Prime Minister Modi had been leading the country from the front in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic and the world had acknowledged it. "Modi has fought from the front... world has recognised the way Modi has led the country during COVID with bold and timely decisions," he said. The Prime Minister was taking along everyone in the fight against Corona. "If there is any Prime Minister in the country whose words people have obeyed with respect, after Shastriji (Lal Bahadur Shastri) it is Narendra Modi," Nadda said. People of the country followed his words religiously when he gave the call for Janata Curfew, they came out to clap for COVID warriors and to light lamps, the BJP chief pointed out.

Nadda lauded the six year-NDA rule under Modi, stating that the 'gap' of six decades had been 'bridged' in six years and the first year of his term was full of achievements, including removal of triple talaq and bringing in Citizenship Amendment Act.

Highlighting abrogation of Article 370 as another achievement of the Modi Government, Nadda said people of Jammu and Kashmir were happy with the decision. Earlier even corruption was not getting probed there. Now that the Prevention of Corruption Act has come into effect in the Union Territory, inquiry into the Jammu and Kashmir Bank fraud has begun, and the guilty will be sent to jail, he said.

Union Ministers D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi shared the stage with Nadda in New Delhi as BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel and Yediyurappa connected to the rally from the party's State Unit Headquarters.

In Mysuru, the video-conference viewing was arranged at the City BJP Office. Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, former MP C.H. Vijayashankar, City BJP President Srivatsa, District President S.D. Mahendra, party leaders Jagadeesh, Suresh Babu, M.V. Ravishankar, Gejjagalli Mahesh, K. Vasanth Kumar and others were present.

Jana Samvada virtual rally screened in Mysuru too

Many hotels may soon find other uses for properties

'Hotel for sale with furniture' will be a new reality, say harried city hoteliers

Mysuru, June 15 (BCT)- Many hotels in Mysuru want to shut shop after the COVID-19 outbreak-induced slowdown hit business hard. Hoteliers who have own properties want to use the assets for some other business now as they do not see survival in hospitality. Some of them are already in talks with consultancy firms to make the best use of their properties.

Hotel owners across the city, facing bleak prospects or weighed down by debt, are considering shutting down their hotels and getting the land-use arrangements changed so that they can switch to other businesses like residential services, office spaces or even retail stores.

Only 30 percent open

Despite the Government allowing the hospitality industry to function, business has not even taken off and it has been more than seven days and hotels are yet to register 10 to 15 percent of the footfall that existed before lockdown, said Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda. *Star of Mysore* spoke to a couple of hoteliers who said that people are not coming out to eat and despite safety arrangements at their hotels, there is only a minimum footfall all day.

Narayanagowda said that over 500 hotels and lodges in Mysuru are still shut. "Only 30 percent of the hotels in Mysuru are open and even those who are open are complaining that business is just a trickle. There are over 1,500 hotels and restaurants in Mysuru and there are over 400 lodge-cum-restaurants. All those who have opened on June 8 were hoping at least a decent dine-in crowd and an improved parcel service. But our hopes are dashed as there are not many takers," he said.

Several restrictions

Many small and medium

Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda

hotels and restaurants have either started shutting down, or are on the brink of doing so as the lockdown and several restrictions on hospitality industry have depleted their cash reserves. Many hotels are so desperate for customers and business that they are posting their menu cards on social media.

Ramesh Bopaiah of Bopy's Restaurant near Hinkal told *SOM* that he fails to understand the logic of the Government that has put many restrictions on hotels while allowing street food. "Many roadside eateries function in most unhygienic manner. There are absolutely no restrictions like maintaining cleanliness and social distancing. On the other hand, 45 conditions have been imposed on the hotel industry. How are we supposed to operate," he asked.

Wine shops open but bars closed

Many hoteliers have reported losses as they are not allowed to open bar counters. "Standalone wine shops are open but bar counters inside hotels are not allowed to open and we are forced to close at 9 pm. The Government has lost a sense of rationality," bar and restaurant owners said.

"Expenses are piling up and there are no customers to balance the situation. Most companies have moved to video-conferencing to ensure social distancing. As a result, people are not travelling for person-to-person meetings. Also, people are scared to come out and eat. False and baseless reports in social and electronic media too have added to the mess," said Somaiah of Green Food Court, Vijayanagar.

Severe blow to business

"About 50 percent of restaurants and hotels will be shut down in the near term in the current situation and nearly 60 percent of the workforce are migrant labourers who fled to their native States, adding further stress. More than 20,000 hotel workers in Mysuru have lost their jobs. Before lockdown, hotels and restaurants used to make business worth over Rs. 20 lakh a month and now it will be less than Rs. 2 lakh a month," Narayanagowda added and said in the coming days, hotel for sale with furniture will be a new reality.

Kuppanna Park to be developed

File photo of Kuppanna Park during Dasara Flower Show with Glass House in the background.

(Continued from page 1)

Pointing out that Kuppanna Park, where the Annual Dasara Flower Show is held, remained idle during most parts of the year, Narayanagowda said the Park with its Glass House is an ideal spot to be developed into an attractive garden and thus become one of the prominent tourist spots of the city, drawing visitors throughout the year.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda said that the Government can charge an entry fee of Rs. 5 after full development of the Park.

Kuppanna Park is also called Nishad Bagh. In his 2015-16 Budget, the then Chief Minister Siddharamaiah, who also held the Finance portfolio, had allocated Rs. 6 crore for the Glass House. The foundation stone was laid on Jan. 22, 2017.

Spread over 12 acres, Kuppanna Park was handed over to the Horticulture Department by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) for maintenance. The vast surroundings of the Park have enabled the Department to add more attractions including the musical fountain and the Glass House.

Horticultural crops

Stating that he was committed to promote cultivation of all types of horticultural crops, Narayanagowda said that the Government has sanctioned Rs. 168 crore for providing relief to horticultural crop growers who suffered losses due to lockdown, out of which Mysuru district would get Rs. 7.82 crore.

He directed the officials to plug any loopholes in the system where the relief amount will be directly credited to the Bank account of beneficiary farmers.

Turning to Sericulture Department, the Minister said that with the rising global demand for Mysore Silk sarees, the Department should do a lot of fieldwork for encouraging farmers to take up Sericulture.

Pointing out that it was important to convince the farmers about the demand for Silk, he said that the youths, who have returned to their native villages due to COVID-19 lockdown, can take up Sericulture as a profession and make it both attractive and remunerative.

Merge KSIC with Sericulture Dept.

MP Pratap Simha suggested merger of KSIC (Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation), a Government body, with the Sericulture Department in the wake of growing demand for pure Mysore Silk sarees. He argued that the merger of KSIC with the Sericulture Department will greatly help in better co-ordination and development of infrastructure for marketing and promotion of all Silk products.

Special incentives to Pourakarmikas

Referring to Municipal Administration Department, Narayanagowda said that he will talk to the authorities on announcing special incentives to Pourakarmikas who are also Corona Warriors just as ASHA workers.

He further said that the Department was seriously considering appointment of more Pourakarmikas in all Urban Local Bodies and also the issue of regularisation of service of contract Pourakarmikas.

MLAs B. Harshavardhan and H.P.Manjunath, MLCs Sandesh Nagaraj and R. Dharmasena, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, ZP CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra and other officials were present at the meeting.

Heritage Dodda Gadiyara

(Continued from page 1)

"Because of sheer negligence of the MCC, the heritage Vani Vilas Market Clock near Agrahara fell years ago. Fortunately it fell in the night. If the Dodda Gadiyara falls, it will cause a major damage as it stands in a busy area," 88-year-old Chandrasekhara Iyer said.

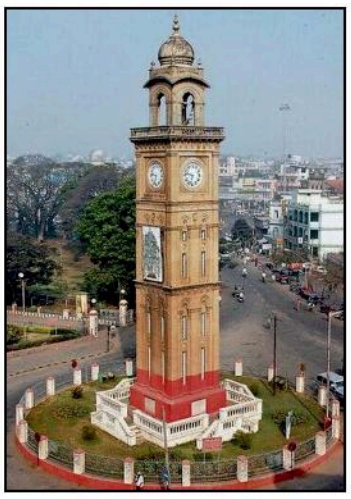
"I have done in-depth research on the Dodda Gadiyara and I am a leading Horologist. Sadly, the MCC has not even bothered to consult me on the restoration work. For 25 years I have been involved myself in research and the lack of concern by the MCC deeply pains me," he said and added that he was not expecting any money from the MCC but a chance to do social service.

The clock tower is called Dodda Gadiyara that means big clock tower. There is the small clock tower or Chikka Gadiyara or Dufferin Clock Tower located next to Devaraja Market near K.R. Circle. The beautiful Dodda Gadiyara was installed by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1927 after completing 25 years of his rule and hence in its memory the structure was named Silver Jubilee Clock Tower. The entire premises of the tower is in a state of neglect and the boards installed providing detailed information has faded and rusted and needs restoration.

Scant concern for history

The tower was installed on August 8, 1927 and the construction expense of this historical Clock Tower (Dodda Gadiyara) was Rs. 7,500, which was built in just six months. On four sides at the tower, the clock establishment, date, month, year and other details were engraved in Sanskrit, Kannada, English and Persian languages in marble stone in golden letters.

The sign boards or plaques are now in a pathetic condition with fading letters. When the clock was striking, the sound could be heard from a distance of nearly two kms. However, the chiming



of the clock has stopped from over 30 years. "The clock's chiming waves were a time keeper for many people then as most of the houses did not have clocks. Now things have changed and people, officials and elected representatives have scant concern and respect for history," Chandrasekhara Iyer regretted.

Natana acting, theatre training resumes

Mysuru, June 15 (SD)- Admission and interview (audition) process for 11-month acting and theatre training course for the year 2020-21 conducted by Natana Rangashale in city will be held on June 28 at 9.30 am.

Interested candidates are requested to submit the application through post before July 2 and attend audition on the above mentioned date. For selected candidates, classes will begin in the month of July, everyday from 5.30 pm to 9 pm.

For details, contact Mob: 99455-55570.

Sir MV statue alongside Nalwadi at KRS

Delegation to meet CM tomorrow

To urge State Govt. to drop the plan

Mandya, June 15 (Nagaiah &DM)- Strongly opposing the Government's plan of installing Sir M. Visvesvaraya (MV) statue alongside that of erstwhile Mysore Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in front of KRS Dam in Srirangapatna taluk of the district, a delegation led by historian Prof. P.V. Nanjaraj Urs will meet Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa at Bengaluru tomorrow (June 16) urging the State Government to drop the plan.

Announcing this at a press meet at Mandya on Saturday, Prof. Nanjaraj Urs said that the delegation will demand the Chief Minister to install only Nalwadi's statue in KRS.

Maintaining that Sir MV served as the Chief Engineer of the Dam for only a year (1911-12), he said that seven other Chief Engineers succeeded him until the Dam was completed in 1932.

Stating that Nalwadi sacrificed a lot for the construction of the Dam, Prof. Urs said that although there is no doubt that Visvesvaraya was a great Engineer who was awarded 'Bharat Ratna,' it was not right to install the statue of an Engineer (Sir MV) who was also a Dewan of Mysore, next to that of Nalwadi.

Claiming that Visvesvaraya quit as Dewan of Mysore in 1918 in protest against Nalwadi's decision to constitute Miller Commission with an aim of providing reservation to Backward Classes, he asserted that installation of Visvesvaraya statue alongside that of Nalwadi would be a historical blunder.

Stating that the previous Siddharamaiah Government had decided to install only the statue of Nalwadi, he alleged that the current BJP Government has manipulated the project by adding the statue of Sir MV.

Criticising the stand of Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, he reiterated that the Government must install only Nalwadi's statue and none others.

Prof. Urs further said that a much bigger statue of Visvesvaraya can be built elsewhere and warned the Government of a massive Statewide protest if the Government went ahead with its plan of side by side installation of the statues of Nalwadi and Sir MV.

Karnataka Sangha President Jayaprakash Gowda, former MLC K.C. Puttasiddashetty, former Mayor Purushotham, activists Dr. Shivakumar, Hulkere Mahadev and M.B. Srinivas were present.

OOTY GUDALUR
TEA ESTATE Technology
INVEST
10,000/- to 1,00,000/-
and GET MONTHLY
Rs. 800/- to 8,000/-
Fixed Cash
7406531074, 7639932248, 7829977609

THOLASI JEWELS
Fine Jewellers Since Generations
22 CT Gold Rate
₹ 4415/- Per Gram
Ashoka Rd, Mysuru. Ph: 2521926 / 2441926
Temple Rd, V.V. Mohalla, Mysuru. Ph: 2411926

LEARN AND EARN
ಕರೋನ ಇಂದ ಮನೆ ಇಂದ ಹೊರ ಬರಲು ಭಯವೇ?
ಚಿಂತಿಸಬೇಡಿ
ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲೆ ಇದ್ದು ಹಣ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಲಾಭ ಗಳಿಸಿರಿ
Introduction to Commodity Market, Basics of Fundamental & Technical Analysis
ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು English ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಳವಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು
Contact: 9916625148

PRAY Safe STAY Safe
SINCE 1918 CYCLE
everyone has a reason to pray

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.